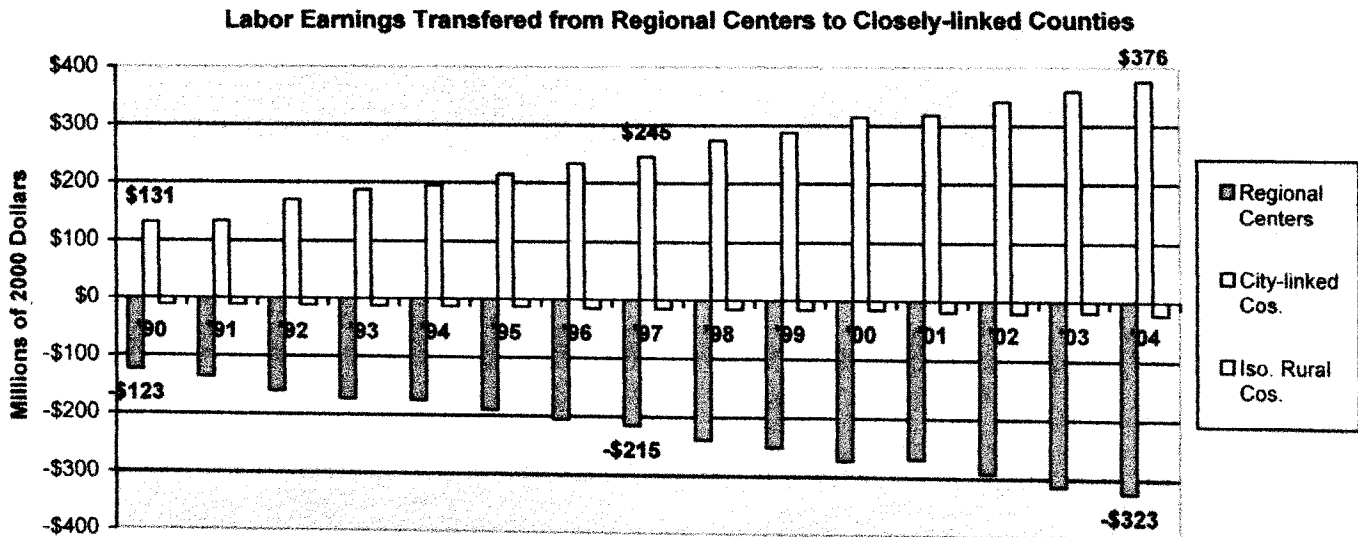


## Cities in Montana as "Economic Engines"



Source: Swanson, O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West (using BEA, U.S. Dept. of Commerce data)

As employment in Montana becomes more concentrated in its seven cities, the labor earnings generated by jobs in these cities are increasingly spilling into the households of persons living in surrounding counties. In 2004 \$323 million in income generated by jobs in these urban counties went to persons residing outside of them, largely in nearby, closely-linked counties. This was up from only \$123 million in 1990 and \$215 million in 1997. Persons and households in counties nearby the states seven regional center counties received 12.5% of all of their employment earnings from job sites outside of their counties of residence, with most of this employment in nearby regional population centers. This is up from 6.7% in 1990.